



Urban District Council of Dartford.

Annual Report for 1923 of the Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,
March, 1924.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARTFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,240
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure)	26,570
Population (Census, 1921)	25,952
Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1921)	4,475
Number of families or separate occupiers (Census, 1921)	4,956
Rateable Value for General District Rate	£153,328
„ „ „ Poor Rate	£162,627
Sum represented by a 1d. rate:—	
General District Rate	£600
Poor Rate	£632

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Births—Legitimate	420	215	205
„ Illegitimate	10	4	6

Birth Rate, 16·18.

23 cases of still-born births occurred during the year.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period is 19·7.

	Total.	Males.	Females.
Deaths	221	117	104

Death Rate, 8·39.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for the year is 11·6.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child Birth—Total, 2.

From Sepsis, 0; from other causes, 2.

Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births:—

Total, 23. Legitimate, 23; Illegitimate, 0.

The Infantile Death Rate for 1923 is 53.48, as compared with 67.75 for the previous year.

The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1923 is 69.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	3

INFANT MORTALITY, 1923.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes {	Certified	7	1	2	0	12	4	2	1	4	21
	Uncertified	2									2
Diphtheria											
Measles							1				1
Whooping-cough										1	1
Erysipelas..											
Meningitis (not tuberculous)											
Convulsions		1	1			2					2
Bronchitis											
Pneumonia (all forms) ...							2		1		3
Enteritis											
Congenital malformation		1				1				1	2
Premature birth		4		2		6					6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		2				2					2
Other Causes		1				1	1	2		2	6
Totals ...		9	1	2	0	12	4	2	1	4	23

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.			Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	...	...	13	...	...	1	1	...	4	2	4	1	...	...	..
Scarlet Fever	...	...	27	...	1	2	3	3	10	5	1	1	1	...	..
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Opthalmia Neonatorum			1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...		1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1
Measles	...	...	127	5	11	17	10	8	65	6	1	2	2	...	...
Chicken Pox	...	...	93	4	6	2	7	5	60	3	4	...	2	...	...

CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.

Of the cases notified, 12 cases of Diphtheria and 23 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Hospital.

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASE.	Total Deaths.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	14	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	5
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

DIPHTHERIA.

The total number of cases notified was 15 (including 2 institutional cases), as compared with 60 in 1922, 221 in 1921, and 199 in 1920. The figure is the lowest since 1907, and is a further proof of the benefit of the extensive swabbing carried out and the elimination of carriers from the Schools.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases notified was 27, as compared with 103 in 1922, and 206 in 1921, and 210 in 1920. The figure is the lowest since 1911.

SMALL POX.

There have been no cases of Small Pox during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

All the cases notified occurred at the London County Mental Hospital.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from Cancer during the year was 26. This is over $\frac{1}{3}$ th of the total deaths from all causes.

During the year consideration has been given by the Ministry of Health to the increase in the incidence of this disease in England and Wales.

In October, 1923, I prepared a Special Report on the subject, which has since been printed, and is being used for propaganda purposes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—5 . ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
5—10	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
10—15 ... ..	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15—20	3	2	1	1	...	...	...	1
20—25	2	2	...	...	1	4	...	...
25—35	3	1	...	...	4	...	1	1
35—45	8	1	...	1	4	2	...	...
45—55	5	...	...	...	3	1	...	...
55—65 .. ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
65 & upwards ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals... ..	22	6	3	3	14	7	1	3

12 of the 28 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 4 cases notified previous to 1923, were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

The number of deaths from this disease during the year was 21 Pulmonary and 4 Non-Pulmonary. Of these, 3 Pulmonary and 2 Non-Pulmonary were not notified previous to death.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified during the year, one of which occurred and was treated in an institution in the district, with the unfortunate result of total blindness.

The remaining case was treated at home, and recovered without impairment of vision.

In addition, the following have been notified from various Institutions :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and over.
Diphtheria	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	4
Dysentery	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Erysipelas	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis :—													
(a) Pulmonary M. ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
„ F. ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Total ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5	...
(b) Non-Pulmonary M.	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
„ F. ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...

DISINFECTION.

Upon removal of cases of infectious disease to Hospital or upon recovery of cases nursed at home, the rooms are disinfected with formalin or sulphur di-oxide and the bedding removed for steam disinfection.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied free to the Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN DARTFORD URBAN DISTRICT DURING THE YEAR.

Causes of Death.								Males.	Females.
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	117	104
1. Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
6. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
8. Enccephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	7
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	17
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
14. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	10
16. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	20
17. Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
18. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
22. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
23. Appendicitis and typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
26. Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27. Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5
29. Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
30. Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
31. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	22
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Council make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Child Welfare Clinic.

(B) MIDWIVES.

There are six midwives practising in the town, each of whom act as workers at the Child Welfare Clinic. I am glad to report that their interest and attendance is very good.

(C) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town:—

Maternity and Child Welfare Centre	...	...	...	...	Maintained by the Council.
School Clinic	...	...	...	...	} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic	...	...	...	...
Venereal Clinic	...	...	...	...

(D) HOSPITALS.

(i). **FEVER.**—Bow Arrow Hospital, accommodation 88 beds, available for Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, under the control of the Dartford Joint Hospital Committee.

Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospital, Joyce Green.

(ii). **GENERAL.**—The Livingstone Hospital, accommodation 32 beds, maintained by voluntary contributions, not subsidised by the Local Authority.

Private patients are also received at the King Edward Avenue Hospital, which is under the control of the Dartford Board of Guardians.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

This work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

During the year the following specimens were submitted for diagnosis:—

Diphtheria swabs	...	...	...	...	...	103
Tuberculosis sputum	...	...	...	...	...	65
Typhoid Widal test	...	...	...	...	...	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITOR.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitor during the year:—

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	...	...	314
Number of visits to infants under one year	...	...	...	...	1,554
Number of children on register over one year	...	...	...	...	1,185
Number of visits to children over one year	...	...	...	...	3,190
Total visits	...	...	...	...	4,744

In addition to these visits the following have been paid:—

Ante-Natal visits (Individual)	...	...	...	...	79
Measles	...	...	...	...	51
Visits under Milk (M. & C.) Order	...	...	...	...	7
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	20

CLINICS.

The Clinics are held on Thursday and Friday afternoons in each week. The Ante-Natal Clinic was detached from the Child Welfare Clinic on September 5th, and is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons.

Dr. Ethel Dukes continues as Medical Officer for these Clinics.

I am glad to be able to report that the attendance of mothers is still well maintained.

The number of infants registered at the Clinics during the year was 475. Boys, 254; Girls, 221.

Number of mothers attending Clinics, 395.

Total attendances of mothers, 5,522.

Of the number of infants registered, 282 were aged under three months on registration.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS, 1919 AND 1921.

Under the above orders 28,854 pints of fresh milk and 115 lbs. of dried milk have been granted in necessitous cases, free or at less than cost price, during the year.

ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890. Parts 2, 3 and 5.

Adopted 2nd January, 1891.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Adopted 7th February, 1902.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

Adopted 2nd October, 1912.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Sections 18, 19, 21, 22, 26 and 33 in Part 2 ...

Sections 37, 48, 50 and 51 in Part 3 ...

Sections 60, 62, 65 and 68 in Part 4 ...

Whole of Part 5 ...

„ „ Part 6 ...

Adopted
2nd April, 1909.

Sections 79, 80, 85 and 86 in Part 7 ...

Section 90 in Part 8 ...

Adopted
19th March, 1909.

Section 95 in Part 10 ... Adopted 4th Jan., 1913.

The Dartford Improvement Act, 1902, contains clauses relating to Drainage, Milk Supply and Infectious Diseases.

There are also in force in the district Bye-Laws regarding:—

Common Lodging Houses.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Nuisances.

Offensive Trades.

Public Sanitary Conveniences.

Slaughterhouses.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

And Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The whole of the district is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewage is conveyed by the water carriage system to Long Reach, and is disposed of by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board.

Extensive alterations are in progress at these works. The new sludge beds have been completed and are in use. New screening apparatus and tanks are in course of construction.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are a few houses situated in the Rural portions of the district which are not connected to the main sewer.

HOUSING.

The work of dealing with the older and most insanitary property in the town is still largely held up by the lack of alternative housing accommodation for the re-housing of those tenants who would be displaced if this property were dealt with, as it should be, under the Housing Acts by Closing and Demolition Orders.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING WORK DURING THE YEAR. (AS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.)

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

(1) INSPECTION.

(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	351
(b) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	...	...	...	...	180
(c) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	1
(d) Number of dwelling-houses under (B) (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	152

(2) REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses under (a) and (b) rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	201
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

(3) ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(1) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—						
(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	16
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—						
(i) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	13
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 :—						
(a) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	1
(b) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(d) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(e) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(f) Number of dwelling-houses demolished other than by Demolition Order	...	...	...	...	...	8

STAFF.

- DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin.)—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.
- DR. ETHEL DUKES, L.R.C.P. and S., Medical Officer of Child Welfare Clinics, Dartford, U.D.C.; also Clinical Assistant, Out Patient Department, Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital.
- W. E. BALCHIN, A.M.I.S.E.—Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.
- E. W. BARTON—Sanitary Inspector and Clerk to the Department (Certified as Sanitary Inspector and as Meat and other Food Inspector).
- MISS A. A. BRIMBLE—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), 3 years Trained Nurse, C.M.B.
-

Appended hereto are the following:—

- (1) Report of the Sanitary Inspector.
- (2) Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

T. FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the District for the year 1923:—

INFECTIOUS DISEASE WORK.

Cases investigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Rooms disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ (other Infectious Diseases)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Number of Houses systematically inspected and recorded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
Notices re defects served on owners :								
Preliminary—Served, 152; Complied with, 155; in hand, Dec. 31st								49
Statutory— „ 14; „ „ 12; „ „ „								6
Houses put in order during year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	118

ACTION TAKEN WITH REGARD TO OTHER NUISANCES FOUND.

Preliminary Notices served, 181; complied with, 181; in hand, Dec. 31st	21
Statutory Notices „ 2; „ „ 1; „ „ „	1

COMPLAINTS.

272 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with.

DRAINAGE.

Number of Drains smoke tested—New Premises, 20; Existing Premises	13
„ „ „ water tested— „ „ 150; „ „	26
„ „ main drains cleared by the Department	194

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLY.

Slaughterhouses.

Number on Register—Licensed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Registered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	91

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Purveyors Registered, Retail	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
„ „ Wholesale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of Cowsheds, 8; Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	54
No. of Dairies, 8; „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
No. of Milkshops 4; „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
No. of Contraventions dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Meat and Other Food Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	126
Market Stall and Hawkers' Cart Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Fried Fish Shop Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Bakehouse Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39

UNSOOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

								cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		2	26
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	14
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	4
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	16

LODGING HOUSES, &c.

Number of Lodging Houses on Register	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Houses let in Lodgings on Register	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	32

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Fried Fish Shops on Register	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Rag and Bone Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Tanyards	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Knacker's Yards	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	96

SHOPS ACTS.

Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	364
Written warning re Contraventions	...	...	...	...	...	34

OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Stables, Yards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	101
Inspections re Tents, Vans and Sheds Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	...	18
Re-inspections and Visits to Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	...	1245

**NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS
NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.**

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	62
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed	...	...	...	...	...	47
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	20
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	...	61
House or part of house cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	101
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	63
Defects in connection with water supply remedied	...	...	...	...	...	8
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	57
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	30
Cooking or washing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	31
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Gully fenders repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains unstopped (by owners)	...	...	...	...	...	43
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Manholes provided	...	...	...	...	...	12
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	59
W.C.'s reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Defective ashbins renewed	...	...	...	...	...	69
Ashbins substituted for open ashpits	...	...	...	...	...	24
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	...	...	...	...	...	7
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke nuisances dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	23

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES, INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PREMISES.	NUMBER OF		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including factory laundries)	23	2	—
Workshops (including workshop laundries)	84	5	—
Workplaces (other than outworkers' premises included in part 3)	10	—	—
Total	117	7	—

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES

PARTICULARS.							NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			Number of Prosecutions.	
							Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector		
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts.											
Want of cleanliness							1	2			
Want of ventilation							—	—			
Overcrowding							—	—			
Want of drainage of floors							—	—			
Other nuisances							1	2			
Sanitary accommodation {							Insufficient	1	1		
							Unsuitable or defective	1	2		
							Not separate for sexes	—	—		
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—											
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses							—	—			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses							3	3			
Other offences							—	—			
Total							7	10			

HOME WORK.

No. of lists received, 3. Inspections, 5.

REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.											Number.
Bakehouses*	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Dressmakers and Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Boot Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cycle and Motor Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Total											54

* There are also 4 Factory Bakehouses in the District.

